

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claim 7 and leaves claim 8 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 7 and 8.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted a List and Copies of Prior Art concurrently with the application on March 20, 2001. However, Applicant has not received an initialed copy of the list from the Examiner acknowledging his consideration of the reference. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner include an initialed copy of the List with the next Patent Office communication. A copy of the List filed on March 20, 2001 is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 7 as containing an informality. Applicants have amended claim 7 to overcome this objection. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

35 USC §102 Rejections

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,353,775 to Nichols. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in claims 7 and 8, are not taught or suggested by Nichols whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims so as to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Particularly amendments were made to the claims in order to more clearly describe that the present invention is directed to a distributed system as recited, for example, in independent claim 7. **These amendments do not change the scope of the claims.**

The present invention, as recited in independent claim 7, provides a distributed system including a first network, a second network, and a gateway connecting the first and second networks. At least one device is connected to the first network, and this device periodically sends or receives a message. At least one device is connected to the second network, and this device sends or receives a message in response to an event or demand. The gateway has a periodic message receiving means for receiving messages that the first network sends periodically. The gateway also has a first memory means for storing the message received by the periodic message receiving means. In addition, the gateway has a message value change detecting means for detecting the change of the value of the data included in the message stored in the memory means. Also, the gateway has an event message sending means for producing a message from the data stored in the memory means when the message value change detecting means detects a change of the value of the data, and for delivering the produced message to the second network. In the present invention, the at least one device connected to the first network is an engine controlling device or an ACC control unit, and the at least one device connected to the second network is a navigation system or an internet terminal. The prior art does not disclose all of these features.

The above described features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record, particularly Nichols, whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

Nichols discloses a method of communicating between a plurality of devices in a controller area network. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Nichols of the distributed system of the present invention, as recited in the claims.

The Nichols method is implemented in a single network. Specifically, as disclosed in the Abstract, Nichols is implemented in a controller area network. The method includes authorizing a first device to transmit messages with a first identifier over the network. The first device transmits a first message with the first identifier and a first value, for receipt by at least one second device. The second devices that receive the first message assume the first value as their respective values. The first and second devices monitor their respective values for changes and transmit their respective values if there are changes. The first device is unauthorized from transmitting messages with the first identifier if it receives a message with the first identifier.

The present invention discloses a first network connected to a second network via a gateway. At least one device for sending or receiving a message in response to an event or demand is connected to the second network. Nichols does not disclose a second network. Furthermore, Nichols does not disclose at least one device for sending or receiving a message in response to an event or demand being connected to a second network. To support the assertion that Nichols discloses this

feature, the Examiner cites column 3, lines 19-25. However, the cited text describes an exemplary network system in which an embodiment of the Nichols method may be used. With reference to Fig. 1, the network includes four devices 101-104 that are connected to a listening device 106 through a bus 105. The devices 101-104 are capable of transmitting messages over the bus 105 to communicate with each other and with the listening device 106. The cited text provides no indication of a second network, or a device connected to a second network, as claimed. Furthermore, the cited text does not describe where at least one device sends or receives a message in response to an event or demand, as claimed.

The present invention also discloses a gateway connected between a first network and a second network. The gateway receives periodic messages from the first network, stores each received message in a first memory means, detects a change of the value of the data included in the message stored in the memory means, and produces a message from the data stored in the memory means when a change of the value of the data is detected, and delivers the produced message to the second network. Nichols does not disclose a gateway, as claimed, which is connected between a first network and a second network. The Examiner cites column 3, lines 26-67 and column 5, lines 1-43 to support the assertion that Nichols discloses a gateway, as claimed. However, as described in the cited text, Nichols discloses the operation of devices 102 in an exemplary network. Furthermore, Nichols discloses the operation of devices 201, 203 and 205 in an exemplary network 200. The described features are quite different from the claimed gateway connected between a first network and a second network, as recited in the claims.

The present invention further discloses where the device connected to the first network is an engine controlling device or an ACC control unit, and where the device connected to the second network is a navigation system or an internet terminal.

Nichols does not disclose this feature. First, Nichols merely discloses the use of a single network — not first and second networks, as claimed. It follows that Nichols does disclose where a first device is connected to a first network and a second device is connected to a second network. Nonetheless, to support the assertion that Nichols discloses the claimed features, the Examiner cites column 4, lines 9-59. The cited text discloses where a listening device 106 may be a furnace in a building, and where devices 201, 203, and 205 may be thermostats in a building. Nichols does not disclose the claimed features, for example, where the device connected to the second network is a navigation system or an internet terminal.

Therefore, Nichols fails to teach or suggest “a second network to which at least one device for sending or receiving a message in response to an event or demand is connected” as recited in claim 7.

Furthermore, Nichols fails to teach or suggest “a gateway connected to said first and second networks, said gateway having periodic message receiving means for receiving messages which said first network sends periodically, first memory means for storing the message received by said periodic message receiving means, message value change detecting means for detecting the change of the value of the data included in the message stored in said memory means, and event message sending means for producing a message from the data stored in said memory means when said message value change detecting means detects a change of the

value of the data, and for delivering the produced message to said second network” as recited in claim 7.

Even further, Nichols fails to teach or suggest “wherein said at least one device connected to said first network for periodically sending or receiving messages is an engine controlling device or an ACC control unit, and said device for sending or receiving messages in response to an event or demand is a navigation system or an internet terminal” as recited in claim 7.

Therefore, Nichols fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of claims 7 and 8 are respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference used in the rejection of claim 7 and 8.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 7 and 8 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 7 and 8 is respectfully requested.

U.S. Application No. 09/787,555

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 503.39781X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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COPY

List and Copies of Prior Art

(PCT Patent Application No. PCT/JP99/07042 (1999))

Prior Publication

(1) Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No.11- 8647 (1999)